

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11-19 and 21-22 are now in the application. The indication that claims 5-9 and 11-13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the claims from which they depend is hereby noted with appreciation.

Claim 10 and non-elected claim 20 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 21 and 22 are newly added. Claims 1-9, 11-19 and 21-22 are all directed to the elected invention.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that “the inert substance is at least one member selected from the group consisting of an insulating metal oxide having band gap energy of 5.0 eV or more, ammonium phosphomolybdate (hydrate), ammonium phosphovanadate (hydrate), ammonium phosphotungstate (hydrate), ammonium phosphate (hydrate), a hydroxy apatite, a carbonate apatite, a fluoride apatite, a tricalcium phosphate, an octacalcium phosphate, organosilane compound, an organotitanium compound, an organoaluminium compound, an organozirconium-aluminium compound, carbon tetrachloride, a quaternary-ammonium-salt compound, a $\text{Mo}(\eta^3\text{-C}_3\text{H}_5)_4$ complex, a $\text{Cr}(\eta^3\text{-C}_3\text{H}_5)_3$ complex, a $\text{Co}_2(\text{CO})_8$ cluster, and a $\text{Ru}_3(\text{CO})_{12}$ cluster”, which is a Markush grouping of the inert substances recited in claims 5-9 and 11. Newly presented claims 21 and 22 correspond to prior claims 12 and 13, respectively, except that claim 22 is written in independent form. The claims have also been amended, where appropriate, by deleting the word “fine”. The amendments to the claims and newly presented claims do not introduce any new matter.

The rejection of claims 1-19 under 35 USC 112, as being indefinite in the recitation “heat-insulating fine particles” has been overcome by deleting the word “fine”.

The rejection of claims 1-4, 10 and 14-19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(c) as being anticipated by US Patent 7,160,624 to Fukutani et al. has been overcome by the above amendment to claim 1 that includes a Markush grouping of the inert substances recited in claims 5-9 and 11. Claims 5-9 and 11 were not subject to this rejection.

In view of the above, consideration and allowance are respectfully solicited.

In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve in any way to advance the prosecution of this application, the undersigned is available at the telephone number noted below.

The Office is authorized to charge any necessary fees due with this paper to Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 21581-00471-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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